

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified patent application in view of the amendments above and the remarks following is respectfully requested.

Claims 20, 21, 24, 27, 28, 31, 32, 35-38 and 45-48 are in this case. Claim 21 has been rejected under § 112, first paragraph. Claims 24 and 46 have been rejected under § 112, second paragraph. Claims 20, 38, 45, 47 and 48 have been rejected under § 102(b). Claims 27 and 28 have been rejected under § 103(a). Claim 48 has been objected to. Independent claim 31 and dependent claims 32 and 35-37 have been allowed. Independent claims 20, 38 and 45-48 and dependent claims 21, 24, 27 and 28 have been canceled.

§ 112, First Paragraph Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claim 21 under § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 21 has been canceled, thereby rendering moot the Examiner's rejection of this claim.

§ 112, Second Paragraph Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 24 and 46 under § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 24 and 46 have been canceled, thereby rendering moot the Examiner's rejection of these claims.

§ 102(b) Rejections - AAPA

The Examiner has rejected claims 20, 38, 45, 47 and 48 under § 102(b) as being anticipated by the Applicant Admitted Prior Art (henceforth, "AAPA"). The Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 20, 38, 45 and 47 have been canceled, thereby rendering moot the Examiner's rejection of these claims.

§ 103(a) Rejections - AAPA

The Examiner has rejected claims 27 and 28 under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA. The Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 27 and 28 have been canceled, thereby rendering moot the Examiner's rejection of these claims.

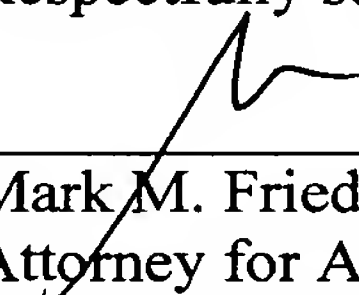
Objections

The Examiner has objected to claim 48 because of an informality. The Examiner's objection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 48 has been canceled, thereby rendering moot the Examiner's objection to this claim.

In view of the above amendments and remarks it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 31, and hence dependent claims 32 and 35-37 are in condition for allowance. Prompt notice of allowance is respectfully and earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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